

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure with the following amended/new abstract of the disclosure:

An apparatus for use in making a purchase decision regarding purchase of a plurality of units of a good or service at a particular purchasing time from a plurality of potential suppliers, the apparatus comprising means for determining or otherwise obtaining a total quantity of units of said good or service required to be purchased at said purchasing time as defined by one or more purchase orders relating to said purchasing time, means for accessing details of terms under which said good or service may be purchased from each of said potential suppliers at said purchasing time, and means for providing an indication of one or more consequences of allocating portions of said total quantity to be purchased among said plurality of potential suppliers.